

**Yolo County  
Board of Supervisors**

**Resolution No. 22-109**

**Proclaiming September 18-24, 2022 as Banned Books Week**

**WHEREAS**, the American Library Association's *Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read* is observed in September as a reminder to Americans not to take their freedom for granted; and

**WHEREAS**, Yolo County Library and the Yolo County Library Advisory Board affirm and support the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*, its *Freedom to Read Statement*, and its *Freedom to View Statement*, and celebrate *Banned Books Week* to bring attention to this issue; and

**WHEREAS**, some individuals, groups, and public authorities continue to work to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label controversial views, to distribute lists of objectionable books or authors, and to purge libraries of materials reflecting the diverse viewpoints; and

**WHEREAS**, the freedom to read, is essential to exercising democracy, and is protected by the U.S. Constitution, and banning books fosters censorship and the erosion of our country's commitment to freedom of expression; and

**WHEREAS**, Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., in Texas v. Johnson, said, "If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable;" and

**WHEREAS**, Yolo County Library protects each individual's freedom to read and ability to form their own opinions, whether or not they are widely held, by removing barriers so everyone can access content that is factual, credible and that offers diverse perspectives without scrutiny; and

**WHEREAS**, Yolo County Library contends that individuals should be trusted to exercise critical judgment, to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe, and to exercise the responsibilities that accompany this freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, Yolo County Library supports parents' rights to guide their children's reading, but a small group of individuals should not dictate what books other parents' children can read.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Yolo County Library will continue to provide and protect the liberty of open access and free inquiry for desired reading materials to all individuals so they may understand a variety of ideas and viewpoints, choose their own values and opinions, and practice informed democracy with the right to read freely now and forever.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 13th day of September 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Villegas, Saylor, Sandy, Provenza, Barajas.

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Angel Barajas, Chair  
Yolo County Board of Supervisors